



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011**

(This report is due in the first quarter of each fiscal year for the previous year.)

### **Urban Forestry Board**

**(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

The Urban Forestry Board may study, investigate, plan, advise, report, and recommend any action, program, plan, or legislation which the board determines necessary or advisable for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs and other landscaping in public parks, along streets, and in other public areas.

The Urban Forestry Board will develop and establish a comprehensive urban forest plan for the planting, maintenance, and replacement of trees in parks, along streets, and in other public areas, and submit it to city council for adoption before implementation.

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**
  - 1) Public tree care
    - a. Supported a press release related to tree watering and care
    - b. Supported City Arborist M. Embesi for public information regarding tree watering
    - c. Developed a tree watering schedule and a tree care plan for cemetery property, including:
      - i. Identified contractor issues
      - ii. Recommended contractor contract be reviewed
      - iii. Recommended alterations to the contract
    - d. Initiated staff review of tree watering water use patterns in parks to begin to develop water allocation recommendations
  - 2) Recommendations of action
    - a. Sponsored a letter to City Council regarding oak wilt

- b. Supported adding full time employees to manage the Invasive Species Plan
- c. Provided recommendations on successful changes to initial disc golf course design and location
- d. Proactively requested ongoing overviews of current PARD projects and plans
- e. Recommended and implemented changes to the Environmental Criteria Manual regarding construction and tree care and management
- f. Convened and supported the Tree Summit project; ensured that recommendations from summit were captured in Imagine Austin Plan
- g. Reviewed and took action upon Urban Forest Grant applications
- h. Reviewed and took action upon tree mitigation appeals
- i. Reviewed Shoal Creek Plan
- j. Reviewed and provided recommendations for Loop 360 Landfill restoration
- k. Reviewed and supported Texas State University GIS project: Shade analysis for all streets and trails in Austin

3) Working Group activities

- a. Provided feedback to staff on the City's tree species list
- b. Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan working group made substantive progress and will continue meeting to ensure a timely product is compiled
- c. Provided feedback to staff regarding preserve management
- d. Consulted with the Heritage Tree Foundation and provided HTF information on tree watering, tree care, and drought

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Board's actions complied with the mission statement.

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

1) Promote the Urban Forest

- a. Compile recommendations for volunteer projects management, particularly with regard to professional services donations
- b. Create a focused tree planting plan for underserved and aging tree stands
- c. Review current parameters for replanting and recommend enhancements in underserved communities of the city
- d. Work with staff to create an annual State of the Forest report
- e. Reach out to neighborhoods to protect trees; enhance collaborative efforts with NGO's and city departments (shared advocacy) for tree preservation
- f. Search out and establish or recommend partnership opportunities for tree programs at available public places (schools, community centers, etc.)
- g. Work with staff to establish a clear Barton Springs tree management decision process as well as to streamline the public communication effort

2) Protect the Urban Forest

- a. Produce a set of guidelines for tree protection on trails during trail development
- b. Promote and recommend development applicants provide tree overlay for zoning applications
- c. Review current plans for public tree watering and look for problems/missing elements and uncaptured opportunities for water sources for trees. Recommend changes or additions to city watering plans
- d. Review the policy, credentials, and regulations of contractors working on public trees and consider making recommendations to staff for improving tree care results
- e. Recommend soil volume standards to be implemented within city departments, with attention to the following criteria: 1) transportation, 2) environmental, and 3) design standards
- f. Support the proposed downtown tree inventory (CBD)

3) Board Development

- a. Review the roles of the urban forestry board and recommend expansion in key areas
- b. Explore the online Tree Board University training
- c. Partner with others to host a Tree Summit III
- d. Pursue public education and communication, such as the “Think Trees” campaign